

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached five (5) sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 27-29 and 32-34. These sheets which include FIGS. 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 27-29, and 32-34, respectively, replace the sheets currently on file including FIGS. 17-19, 20-22, 23-25, 27-29 and 32-34. In amended FIGS. 17-25 and 27-29 the German text has been translated into English. In amended FIG. 32 "press-on" has been changed to --pressing-- and "output moment" has been changed to --input moment--. In amended FIG. 33 "press-on" has been changed to --pressing--. In amended FIG. 34 "overall press-on" has been changed to --entire pressing--.

Attachment: Five (5) replacement sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 2-3, 5-6, 8-23 and 25-36.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 24 have been canceled in favor of new claims 33-36 to improve their form. Accordingly, claims 2, 3, and 5-6, which previously depended on claim 1, and claims 8, 13-19, 22, 23 and 25-31, which previously depended on claim 7, have been amended to depend on new claims 33 and 35, respectively. In addition, claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8-19, 22, 23, 25 and 28-32 have been amended to improve their form or to delete reference numerals.

The specification has been amended as reflected in the substitute specification submitted herewith and amended drawing sheets have been submitted including changes to FIGS. 17-25, 27-29 and 32-34. In amended FIGS. 17-25 and 27-29, the German text has been translated into English. In amended FIGS. 32 and 33 "press-on" unit has been changed to --pressing-- unit to conform with changes made in the substitute specification. In addition, a clerical error has been corrected in FIG. 32 ("output" moment changed to --input-- moment). In amended FIG. 34, "overall press-on unit" has been changed to --entire pressing unit--, which is believed to be a better translation.

Reconsideration is expressly requested.

The drawings were objected to because FIGS. 17-25 and 27-29 contained German language. In response, Applicants have submitted herewith, *inter alia*, amended FIGS. 17-25 and 27-29 in which the German text has been translated in English, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's objection to the drawings.

The specification was objected to as not being in proper idiomatic English, and the Examiner required that a substitute specification be provided with the amendments incorporated therein. In response, Applicants have enclosed herewith a substitute specification which has been amended to change the term "press-on" to --pressing--. In addition, "overall press-on" apparatus or drive train has been changed to --entire-- pressing apparatus or drive train, and the spelling of "behavior" has been corrected. A marked-up copy showing all of the changes made herein relative to the immediate prior version of the specification of record as amended by Applicants' July 6, 2005

Preliminary Amendment and March 14, 2006 Second Preliminary Amendment is also enclosed. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants respectfully submit that the substitute specification overcomes the objections of the Examiner to the specification, and Applicants respectfully request that the objection on this basis be withdrawn.

Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on page 4 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 4, 7 and 24 in favor of new claims 33-36, and have amended the remaining claims (except for claims 20-21) to improve their form or in view of the new claims 33-36, which it is respectfully submitted overcomes the Examiner's rejection on the basis of 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Borello U.S. Patent No. 4,183,253*.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in new claim 33, Applicants' invention provides a bevel friction ring gear including an input bevel gear, an output bevel gear, a friction ring forming a surrounding grip around one of the bevel gears, a registering device for registering a torque to be transmitted, and a pressing apparatus for locking together the bevel gears and the friction ring with the registering device. The pressing apparatus includes a pressing force applicator for applying a pressing force corresponding to the torque to be transmitted and first and second pressing apparatus parts. The first pressing apparatus part requires a shorter reaction time than the second pressing apparatus part.

As set forth in new claim 35, Applicants' invention provides a bevel friction ring gear including a first torque transmitting gear member, a second torque transmitting gear member, and a pressing apparatus locking together the first torque transmitting gear member with the second torque transmitting gear member. The pressing apparatus includes a pressing force applicator for applying a pressing force corresponding to the torque to be transmitted and first and second pressing apparatus parts. The

first pressing apparatus part requires a shorter reaction time than the second pressing apparatus part.

Borello fails to disclose or suggest a bevel friction ring gear in which different reaction times are present for the two pressing force actuators. The term "reacting force" implies an input means upon which changing any reaction occur. Although the Examiner is correct that this input means is an input for the hydraulic pump of *Borello*, with respect to the second actuator of *Borello*, the first pressing force actuator of *Borello* receives no control. Therefore, it has no independent input means. It follows that the first pressing force actuator of *Borello* has the identical reaction time as the second pressing force actuator. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Borello* fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' bevel friction ring gear as recited in new claims 33 and 35.

As set forth in new claim 36, Applicants' invention provides a method of operating a bevel friction gear including the steps of pressing at least one input bevel gear member and at least one output bevel gear member together by a pressing apparatus,

operating the pressing apparatus with a first operating condition-pressing force characteristic curve that has a first average slope between an at rest position of the friction gear and a first operating condition, and operating the pressing apparatus with a second operating condition-pressing force characteristic curve that has a second average slope between the first operating condition and a second operating condition. As recited in new claim 36, the first average slope is different from the second average slope.

In contrast, the operating condition pressing force characteristic curve of the first pressing force actuator (spring 9) and the second force actuator (10) of *Borello* are identical because both pressing force actuators depend upon the identical condition, i.e. the voltage input of the hydraulic pump, and are connected in series, which leads to completely identical behavior. It should be noted that the spring of *Borello* leads just to a biasing of the overall pressing force actuator of *Borello*. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Borello* fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' method of operating a bevel friction gear as recited in new claim 36.

As set forth in Applicants' new claim 34, Applicants' invention provides a bevel friction ring gear including an input bevel gear, an output bevel gear, a friction ring forming a surrounding grip around one of the bevel gears, a registering device for registering a torque to be transmitted, and a pressing apparatus for locking together the bevel gears and the friction ring with the registering device. The pressing apparatus includes a pressing force applicator for applying a pressing force corresponding to the torque to be transmitted and first and second pressing apparatus parts. The first pressing apparatus part provides a first pressing force that is greater than or equal to a net pressing force to be provided by the pressing apparatus. The second pressing apparatus part reduces the pressing force provided by the first pressing apparatus part.

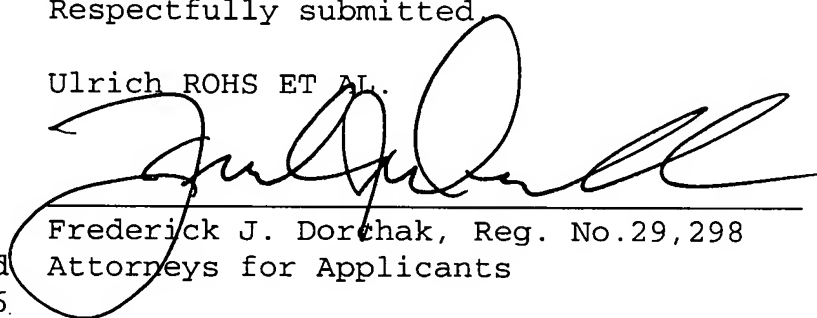
As is evident from the discussion of *Borello* above, the first pressing force actuator and the second pressing force actuator of *Borello* do not reduce the pressing forces of one another because these pressing force actuators are connected in series. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Applicants' new claim 34 is patentable over *Borello* as well.

In summary, claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-19, 22, 23, and 25-32 have been amended, claims 1, 4, 7, and 24 have been canceled, and new claims 33-36 have been added. The specification and FIGS. 17-25, 27-29, and 32-34 have also been amended, the amendments to the specification being reflected in a substitute specification submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee for one additional independent claim for a small entity over those previously paid for. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

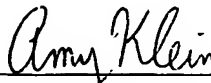
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Enclosures: Check in the amount of \$110.00
 Appendix - 5 replacement sheets of drawings
 Substitute Specification (clean copy)
 Substitute Specification (marked-up copy)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 30, 2009.



Amy Klein

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APPENDIX